

## Message Text

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72

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 MC-02 IO-12 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

AF-10 RSR-01 /191 W

----- 103855

R 181719 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 262

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 13856

DEPT PASS AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI AND USINT CAIRO

BEIRUT PASS USINT BAGHDAD

E. O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, SA

SUBJ: FRANCO- SAUDI RELATIONS: VISIT OF KING FEISAL

REF: PARIS 13580

SUMMARY: VISIT OF SAUDI KING FEISAL ENDED ON NOTE OF SURPRISE  
WITH DECISION NOT TO ISSUE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH WAS TO HAVE  
BEEN RELEASED MAY 18. AS INDICATED REFTEL, FINAL PHASES OF  
VISIT INCLUDED TETE- A- TETE MEETING WITH POMPIDOU,  
RECEPTION OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, DEMONSTRATION OF SECAM TELEVI-  
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SION SYSTEM AND BRIEF VISIT TO CONCORDE. DECISION ON SECAM, CONCORDE AND ARMS PURCHASES REMAIN FOR FUTURE AS DOES POMPIDOU RETURN VISIT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ABSENCE OF COMMUNIQUE THERE IS SOME CONFUSION ABOUT ACTUAL ACHIEVMENTS OF VISIT BEYOND EVIDENT IMPROVEMENT IN OVERALL FRANCO- SAUDI RELATIONS. POMPIDOU ANNOUNCED ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATION TO PAY RETURN VISIT AND PRESS HAS INDICATED THAT KING AGREED TO STUDY SECAM SYSTEM, TO RECEIVE FRENCH DEMONSTRATION TEAM, AND TO LOOK CAREFULLY INTO FEASIBILITY OF USING CONCORDE ON JIDDA- CASABLANCA- NEW YORK ROUTE. ON MILITARY SIDE, NEWSPAPERS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT SAUDIS INTERESTED IN MIRAGE F-1 AIRCRAFT, SURFACE- TO- AIR MISSILES, SUPER FRELON HELICOPTERS, AMX TANKS AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS, WITH REPECT TO ECONOMIC COOPERATION, AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT, CHEMICAL INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORTATION SECTOR CITED AS AREAS IN WHICH FURTHER GROWTH POSSIBLE. LEADING FRENCH BANK, CREDIT LYONNAIS, HAS ALSO DECIDED TO SET UP GROUP TO PROMOTE FRENCH TECHNOLOGY IN SAUDI ARABIA WITH REPRESENTATIVE IN RIYADH.

2. DISCUSSIONS OF FARMS SALES APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN VERY ACTIVE. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS ROUILLON TOLD EMBOFF MAY 18 THAT KING EXPRESSED DEFINITE INTEREST IN MIRAGES. GOF HOPED THAT CONTRACTS WOULD BE SIGNED FOR THESE AND OTHER ITEMS IN DUE COURSE, THOUGH ROUILLON THOUGHT SEVERAL MONTHS AT LEAST WOULD GO BY BEFORE ANY FINAL DECISIONS TAKEN.

3. ON POLITICAL SIDE, ROUILLON CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS THAT PRINCIPAL SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION WAS MIDDLE EAST. FEISAL IN DISCUSSING SITUATION STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO 1967 BOUNDARIES AND JUST SETTLEMENT OF PALESTINIAN QUESTION. WHILE NOT SPECIFICALLY ENDORSING UN RESOLUTION 242, KING GAVE IMPRESSION THAT HE COULD LIVE WITH SETTLEMENT WHICH IN EFFECT BASED ON IT. KING INDICATED THAT HIS VIEW THAT FOUR POWER CONSULTATIONS OR UNSC ACTION COULD PLAY USEFUL ROLE. JERUSALEM DISCUSSED ONLY IN CONTEXT OF WITHDRAWAL TO 1967 BOUNDARIES.

4. COMMENT: WHILE EFFORT BEING MADE ON ALL SIDES TO PORTRAY VISIT AS MILESTONE IN FRANCO- ARAB RELATIONS, THERE WAS CLEARLY NOT TOTAL AGREEMENT ON ALL POINTS. FRENCH TRADE WITH SAUDI ARABIA REMAINS IN SERIOUS DISEQUILIBRIUM, AS FINANCE MINISTER  
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GISCARD D'ESTAING POINTED OUT IN INTERVIEW FOR SAUDI PRESS AGENCY. EVEN WITH GENEROUS ASSUMPTION ABOUT ARMS AND AIRCRAFT SALES, IMBALANCE WILL REMAIN FOR SOME TIME TO COME. ON MIDDLE EAST TWO SIDES APPARENTLY IN SUBSTANTIAL BUT NOT TOTAL AGREEMENT. IN HIS SECOND TOAST ON EVENING MAY 17, POMPIDOU CITED ONLY " SIMILARITY" OF ASSESSMENT ON SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST.

POMPIDOU CLAIMED BOTH COUNTRIES WERE ATTACHED TO PRINCIPAL THAT A TRUE PEACE WOULD HAVE TO OFFER JUSTICE TO ALL PEOPLES AND THAT VIABLE BALANCE IN THE AREA IMPLIED RESPECT FOR THE DIGNITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF STATES. ABSENCE OF COMMUNIQUE MAY REFLECT SAUDI RELUCTANCE TO ENDORSE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL WHICH IMPLIED IN POMPIDOU' S REFERENCE TO INDEPENDENCE OF STATES.

5. IN ANY EVENT, HOWEVER MUCH FRANCE' S RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA HAVE IMPROVED, KING FEISAL WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO ASSURE DCM THAT SAUDI FOREIGN POLICY WAS BASED ON FRIENDSHIP OF ALL NATIONS, THUS IMPLYING IMPROVED FRANCO- SAUDI RELATIONS WOULD IN NO WAY DIMINISH ESTEEM FOR US OR CLOSENESS OF SAUDI TIES WITH US.  
IRWIN

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED ABU DHABI, CAIRO.

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NMAFVVZCZ

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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BEIRUT  
JIDDA  
KUWAIT  
NEA  
SANAA  
SECSTATE WASHDC

TEHRAN  
TEL AVIV

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